

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03
INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-07 PA-01 /069 W
-----120047 060608Z /14
R 050845Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6812

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E.O. 11641: NA
TAGS: ETRD, JA
SUBJECT: AUTOMOBILES: PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT
. MITI IS SEEKING TO RESTRAIN EXPORT LEVELS

REF: (A) TOKYO 3739, (B) TOKYO A-067

SUMMARY: PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT MITI IS SEEKING TO
RESTRAIN AUTO EXPORT LEVELS BY ISSUING MONTHLY
"RECOMMENDED" EXPORT TARGETS TO MANUFACTURERS. MITI
DENIES THIS BUT DOES ADMIT CONSULTING WITH EACH
MANUFACTURER REGARDING ITS OWN ANNUAL EXPORT FORECAST.
END SUMMARY.

1. AT LEAST TWO VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS HAVE CARRIED
RECENT REPORTS THAT MITI WILL STRIVE TO HOLD JFY
1978 AUTO EXPORTS TO ABOUT 4.5 MILLION UNITS THROUGH
INCREASINGLY STRICT "ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDANCE." EXPORTS
DURING THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF CALENDAR 1978 (LAST
QUARTER OF JFY 1977) HAVE TOTALED ALMOST 1.2 MILLION
UNITS, A 21 PERCENT INCREASE OVER THE SAME PERIOD
LAST YEAR. IN AN ATTEMPT TO RESTRAIN JFY 1978 EXPORTS
TO THE 4.5-4.6 MILLION UNIT LEVEL ACHIEVED DURING
JFY 1977, THE MARCH 29 MAINICHI REPORTED THAT,
BEGINNING APRIL 1, MITI WOULD HAVE EACH AUTO MANU-
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FACTURER SUBMIT ITS EXPORT PLAN BY MONTH IN ADVANCE
FOR REVIEW AND WOULD THEN "RECOMMEND" SUITABLE EXPORT
VOLUMES. MEASURE IS REPORTEDLY BEING TAKEN BECAUSE
GOJ AS A WHOLE FINDS IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO
REDUCE JAPAN'S CURRENT ACCOUNT SURPLUS AS PROMISED
GIVEN THE COUNTRY'S BURGEONING CAR EXPORTS.
2. MARCH 31 YOMIURI REPORTS THAT MITI WILL ALSO SUGGEST

TO AUTO MANUFACTURERS THAT THEY RAISE EXPORT PRICES
(WHICH HAVE ALREADY GONE UP IN THE U.S. BY A TOTAL
OF 17 PERCENT SINCE APRIL, 1977), NOT ONLY TO POSSIBLY
DAMPEN THE OVERSEAS DEMAND FOR JAPAN JAPANESE VEHICLES
BUT TO GUARD AGAINST ANY POSSIBLE DUMPING CHARGES
THAT COULD RESULT FROM THE RISING YEN/DECLINING DOLLAR
SITUATION.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MITI ADMITS THAT IT DOES HAVE
EACH MANUFACTURER'S PRODUCTION/EXPORT PLAN FOR JFY 1978
AND CONSULTS WITH EACH MANUFACTURER REGARDING ITS OWN
OVERALL PROJECTED LEVEL OF EXPORTS, THE MINISTRY DENIES
THAT ANY FIRM MONTHLY EXPORT GUIDANCE FIGURES ARE BEING
ISSUED. SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED THAT MITI IS REVIEWING
MONTHLY REPORTS ON AUTO EXPORTS AND ALSO CAUTIONED
MANUFACTURERS TO BE ALERT TO THE YEN/DOLLAR EXCHANGE
SITUATION AND POSSIBLE ANTI-DUMPING MOVES ALTHOUGH
IT HAS NOT ISSUED ANY SPECIFIC ADVICE RE A PRICE RAISE.

MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPORTS, PRESS COMMENTS, AUTOMOBILES, EXPORT CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TOKYO05712
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780148-0356
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780488/aaaacwwt.tel
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 6aa45cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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TAGS: ETRD, JA
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